

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HONG K 12392 100843Z

44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA- 4 RS*-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 NIC-01 128 W

----- 082658

R 100800Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8944

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 12392

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJ: SPOTLIGHT SHIFTS TO CHIANG CHING

1. CHIANG CHING HAS RETURNED TO THE LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT WITH A FLOURISH. OUT OF SIGHT SINCE SHE SKIPPED THE TURNOUT FOR POPULAR FESTIVITIES MARKING NATIONAL DAY OCT 1, AND WITH HER POLITICAL STAR SEEMINGLY DIMMED AS A RESULT OF HER FAILURE TO WIN PROMOTION AT THE PARTY CONGRESS IN AUGUST, OMS. MAO BOUNDED BACK WITH THREE PUBLIC APPEARANCES OVER THE WEEKEND. SHE JOINED CHOU AND WANG HUNG-WEN IN MEETING A DELEGATION FROM HUMAITE ROUGE ON DECEMBER JN JOINED CHOU IN RECEIVING JAPANESE VISITORS DECEMBER 8, AND AGAIN THAT DAY SECONDED HIM IN MEETING WITH HE NEPALESE KING. NCNA'S PHOTO OF THE LATTER EVENT STRIKINGLY CENTERS ON HER WITH THE KING, RELEGATING CHOU TO THE MARGIN OF THE SCENE AND EXCLUDING ALTOGETHER POLITBURO MEMBERS LI HSIEN-NIEN AND WU TEH WHO WERE PRESENT ON THE OCCASION.

2. IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR CHOU TO DEFER TO CHIANG CHING IN PHOTOS,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 HONG K 12392 100843Z

AND HER RECENT ABSENCE FROM PUBLIC VIEW COULD HAVE BEEN DUE TO

ILLNESS. HOWEVER, HER PRIMINENCE AT THIS TIME PROBABLY HAS SOME POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. FROM ONE PERSPECTIVE, IT CAN BE VIEWED AS ANOTHER TURN OF THE KALEIDOSCOPE BY WHICH THE REGIME HAS BEEN VARYINGLY PROJECTING DIFFERENCE LEADERSHIP FIGURES IN THE WAKE OF THE PARTY CONGRESS, A PROCESS BY WHICH A LOW PROFILE OF CHOU'S PERSONAL AMBITIONS HAS ALSO SEEMINGLY BEEN CONVEY D. (WE REMARKED EARLIER ON CHOU'S SIFTING ABOUT IN PHOTOS WITH WANG HUNG-WEN, HIS SHARING OF PROTOCOL HONORS WITH LI TEH-SHENG, AND HIS ABSENCE FROM THE CLOSEUP PHOTO OF MAO, LI, AND CHANG CHUNG-CHIAO WITH PRG LEADER THO.)

3. LOOKING BEHIND THESE CHANGING*TABLEAUS, IT IS POSSIBLE TO DISCERN AN EFFORT TO DESPLAY COOPERATION AND COHESION AMONG THE LEADERS AND TO SCOTCH SPECULATION THAT THE HEAT OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL MOVEMENT HAS IN ANY WAY SERIOUSLY IMPAIRED THEIR UNITY. IF THIS VIEW IS ACCURATE, WE WOULD ASCRIBE THE INITIATIVE FOR THE EFFORT TO CHOU.
OSBORN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC RELATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HONGK12392
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731235/aaaaazkm.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <19-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPOTLIGHT SHIFTS TO CHIANG CHING
TAGS: PINT, CH, (CHIANG CHING)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005